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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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Filed: : March 24, 2006  
International Application No. : PCT/SG2004/000312  
Inventor : Qibin Sun et al.  
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Title : METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROTECTING AND  
AUTHENTICATING A DIGITAL IMAGE  
Attorney Docket No. : 121187-827-NP

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

To the Commissioner:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-identified application, please amend the specification and claims as follows. The amendments to the claims are made to the claim set as amended during the international phase of the application.

**Amendment to the Specification** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the **Listing of Claims** which begins on page 7 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 12 of this paper.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**